

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Specification Amendments:

The specification has been amended based on the 35 U.S.C. Section 112, 1st paragraph rejection of the claims, as well as to correct some incorrect references to figure numbers in the specification. No new matter is believed to have been added to the specification.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being canceled.

Claims 1 and 5 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-8 are now pending in this application.

Objection to the Drawings:

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. In particular, the Office Action asserts that the drawing do not show the second through sixth reading means recited in claims 1 and 5.

In reply, the first reading means corresponds to Steps 35' and 55' shown in Figure 13, the second reading means corresponds to step 15' in Figure 12 and step 75' in Figure 13, the third reading means corresponds to step 19' in Figure 12, the fourth reading means corresponds to Figure 15D and step 39 in Figure 7, the fifth reading means corresponds to Figure 16D and step 59' in Figure 13, and the sixth reading means corresponds to Figure 17D and step 79' in Figure 13.

Accordingly, each of the claimed first through fifth reading means are shown in the figures, and thus no drawing changes are deemed necessary.

35 U.S.C. Section 112, 1st Paragraph Rejection of Claims 1-8:

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, 1st paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, since the second through sixth reading means of claims 1 and 5 were not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In particular, as discussed above, the first reading means corresponds to Steps 35' and 55' shown in Figure 13 and the description of those steps in the specification, the second reading means corresponds to step 15' in Figure 12 and step 75' in Figure 13 and the description of those steps in the specification, the third reading means corresponds to step 19' in Figure 12 and the description of that step in the specification, the fourth reading means corresponds to Figure 15D and step 39 in Figure 7 and the description of that step and that figure in the specification, the fifth reading means corresponds to Figure 16D and step 59' in Figure 13 and the description of that step and that figure in the specification, and the sixth reading means corresponds to Figure 17D and step 79' in Figure 13 and the description of that step and that figure in the specification.

Accordingly, there is ample written description support in the specification for the first through sixth reading means recited in claims 1 and 5.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date July 18, 2005

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